

about in the neighbourhood of the rest house with my tracker Po Hmu of Bawni village. We came upon a bear constructing a nest of green branches in a big tree over a hundred feet up. I brought down the bear with my rifle. Next morning we set out to track either tsaing or bison. On hearing the cracking of branches, we went to investigate and saw a pair of bears constructing a nest also 100-120 ft. high. I shot one with my rifle while my tracker shot the other with my shot-gun as it was coming down the tree. This nest was also under construction and made of green branches of the tree on which it was built.

The monsoon breaks in Burma in May. It appears therefore that bears construct nests for rest and protection during the rainy season.

This species is known as *Wet-wun* in Burmese and *Tsap* in Kachin.

7, SHAN ROAD,  
RANGOON,  
January 18, 1954.

U TUN YIN

#### 6. LONGEVITY OF THE CEYLON RUDDY MONGOOSE (*HERPESTES SMITHI ZEYLANICUS*) IN CAPTIVITY

When visiting some friends recently, I was shown a tame Ruddy Mongoose (*H. smithi zeylanicus*) which had been with the family for many years. It is an old male, now rather fat and losing some of its teeth but apparently still healthy, fairly active and very tame.

Fortunately, its history and approximate age are known. Mrs. Garnier, the owner, informs me that it was obtained in the Ratnapura district (Wet Zone) of South Ceylon in January 1938, when it was believed to be about three months old. Since October 1938, it has been kept continuously by either Mrs. Garnier or her sister, so its age is known to be approximately 16 years and 9 months, at the end of July 1954.

As far as I am aware this is a record age for a mongoose of this species.

TONACOMBE,  
NAMUNUKULA,  
CEYLON,  
August 16, 1954.

W. W. A. PHILLIPS

[Major S. S. Flower (P.Z.S. 1931: 169) in recording the longevity of several species of mongooses, refers to an example of the Indian Stripenecked Mongoose, *Herpestes vitticollis* which lived in the Trivandrum Zoological Garden for 12 years 10 months 18 days. This was the longest age on record, the others ranging chiefly between 4½ and 10 years, except once in the case of an African species—the Yellow Meerkat (*Cynictis pencilata*) which lived in the London Zoo for 12 years, 10 months and 2 days.—Eds.]